

Appendix B

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let us drink (used as a refrain in 17th-century poetry), first person plural imperative of *lamper*, to gulp down, guzzle, from Germanic. See *lab-* in Appendix.*] —*lam-poon'er*, *lam-poon'ist* *n.* —*lam-poon'er-y* *n.*

lamp-post (lāmp'pōst') *n.* A post supporting a street lamp.
lam-prey (lām'prē) *n.*, *pl.* -preys. Any of various primitive elongated freshwater or anadromous fishes of the family Petromyzontidae, characteristically having a jawless sucking mouth with a rasping tongue. Also called "lamper eel." [Middle English *lamprei*, from Old French *lampreie*, from Medieval Latin *lampreda*. See also *limpet*.]

lamp shell. A marine invertebrate, a brachiopod (see). [From the shape of one of the valves in certain species.]

la-na-i (lā-nā'i; Hawaiian lā-nā'ē) *n.*, *pl.* -is. A verandah. [Hawaiian.]

La-na-i (lā-nā'ē). An island of Hawaii, 141 square miles in area, lying about seven miles west of Maui.

Lan-ark (lān'ark). 1. Also **Lan-ark-shire** (-shīr, -shər). A county occupying 879 square miles in south-central Scotland. Population, 1,595,000. 2. Its county seat. Population, 8,000.

lan-nate (lā'nāt') *adj.* Having or consisting of woolly hairs. [Latin *lanātus*, from *lana*, wool. See *wel-* in Appendix.*]

Lan-ca-shire (lāng'kə-shīr, -shər). *Abbr.* **Lancs.** A county occupying 1,818 square miles in northwestern England. Population, 5,129,000. County seat, Lancaster.

Lan-cas-ter (lāng'kə-stər). Family name of rulers of England (1399–1461).

Lan-cas-ter (lāng'kə-stər; also lāng'kās'tər for sense 2). 1. The county seat of Lancashire, England. Population, 48,000. 2. A city in southeastern Pennsylvania. Population, 61,000.

Lan-cas-ter Sound (lāng'kə-stər). A channel about 50 miles wide between northern Baffin Island and southern Devon Island, Northwest Territories, Canada.

Lan-cas-tri-an (lāng-kās'trē-ən) *adj.* 1. Of or pertaining to the English royal house of Lancaster. 2. Of or pertaining to Lancashire or its inhabitants. —*n.* 1. A member of the Lancastrian faction, the Red Rose party, in the Wars of the Roses (1455–85). 2. An inhabitant of Lancashire.

lance (lāns, lāns) *n.* 1. A thrusting weapon with a long wooden shaft and a sharp metal head. 2. A similar implement for spearing fish. 3. A lancer. 4. A lancet. —*tr.v.* *lanced*, *lancing*, *lances*. 1. To pierce with a lance. 2. *Surgery.* To make an incision in with a lancet; cut into: *lance a boil*. [Middle English *lanche*, from Old French *lance*, from Latin *lancea*.]

lance corporal. 1. In the U.S. Marine Corps, an enlisted man ranking above a private first class and below a corporal. 2. In the British Army, a private acting as a corporal. [From obsolete *lancepessade*, from Old French *lancepessade*, from Old Italian *lancia spezzata*, old soldier, "broken lance": *lancia*, lance, from Latin *lancea*, *LANCE* + *spezzata*, feminine past participle of *spezzare*, to break in pieces: *s-*, from Latin *dis-* + *pezza*, piece, from Medieval Latin *petia*, *PIECE*.]

lance-let (lāns'lit, lāns'-) *n.* Any of various small, flattened marine organisms of the subphylum Cephalochordata, allied to the vertebrates but having a notochord rather than a true vertebral column. Also called "amphioxus." [*LANCE* + *-LET*.]

Lan-ce-lot (lāns'ə-lot, -lōt', lāns'-). Also **Laun-ce-lot**. *Arthurian Legend.* A knight of the Round Table whose love affair with Queen Guinevere resulted in a war with King Arthur.

lan-ce-o-late (lāns'ē-ō-lāt') *adj.* Narrow and tapering at each end: *lanceolate leaves*. [Late Latin *lanceolatus*, from Latin *lancea*, diminutive of *lancea*, *LANCE*.]

lanc-er (lāns'sər, lāns'-) *n.* A cavalier armed with a lance. [French *lancier*, from Old French, from *lance*, *LANCE*.]

lanc-ers (lāns'səz, lāns'-) *n.* Also **lan-ci-ers** (lāns'sīz', lāns'-). Plural in form, used with a singular verb. 1. A form of quadrille. 2. The music for this dance.

lan-cet (lāns'sit, lāns'-) *n.* 1. A surgical knife with a short, wide, pointed, double-edged blade. 2. *Architecture.* a. A lancet arch (see). b. A lancet window (see). [Middle English *lancette*, from Old French, diminutive of *lance*, *LANCE*.]

lancet arch. *Architecture.* An arch that is narrow and pointed like the head of a spear. Also called "lancet."

lancet fish. Either of two large marine fishes, *Alepisaurus ferox*, of the Atlantic, or *A. richardsoni*, of the Pacific, having long, sharp teeth and a large dorsal fin.

lancet window. *Architecture.* A tall narrow window set in a lancet arch. Also called "lancet."

lance-wood (lāns'wōd', lāns'-) *n.* 1. Any of several tropical American trees, such as one of the genera *Calycophyllum* or *Mimusops*, having hard, durable, uniformly grained wood. 2. The wood of such a tree.

Lan-chow (lān'jō). Formerly **Kao-lan** (gou'lān'). The capital of Kansu, China, a city in the south-central part of the province. Population, 1,500,000.

Lancs. Lancashire.

land (lānd) *n.* 1. The solid ground of the earth, especially as distinguished from the sea. 2. a. The soil; the earth: *till the land*. b. A topographically or functionally distinguished tract: *desert land*. 3. a. A nation. b. A district or region inhabited by a particular people. c. *Plural.* Territorial possessions. 4. Public or private landed property; real estate. 5. *Law.* a. Any tract of land that may be owned, together with everything growing or constructed upon it. b. A landed estate. 6. The raised portion of a grooved surface. —*See* Synonyms at *nation*. —*v.* *landed*, *landing*, *lands*. —*tr.* 1. a. To bring to and unload on land: *land cargo*. b. To set down on land or other surface: *land an airplane*. 2. To cause to arrive; set down; place: "*Having one's own way landed one completely at sea*." (D.H. Lawrence). 3. a. To

catch and pull in (a fish). b. To win; to secure: *land a big contract*. 4. To deliver: *land a blow on the head*. —*intr.* 1. a. To come to shore. b. To disembark. 2. To descend toward and settle on the ground or other surface. 3. To arrive at a destination: *They landed at the theater too late*. 4. To come to rest in a certain way or place: *land on one's feet*. [Middle English *land*, Old English *land*. See *lendh-* in Appendix.*]

—*land*. Indicates: 1. A region of a particular quality or kind; for example, *grassland*. 2. A realm of a specified nature; for example, *dreamland*.

Land (lānd), Edwin Herbert. Born 1909. American inventor of Polaroid products.

lan-dau (lān'dō, -dou') *n.* 1. A four-wheeled closed carriage with facing front and back passenger seats and a roof made in two sections for lowering or detachment. 2. A former style of automobile with a roof similar to this. [First manufactured in Landau, Bavaria, Germany.]

Lan-dau (lān-dou'), Lev Davidovich. 1908–1968. Soviet physicist.

lan-dau-let, **lan-dau-lette** (lān'dō-lēt') *n.* 1. A small landau. 2. An automobile having a collapsible roof over the back seat and an open driver's seat. [*LANDAU* + *-LET*.]

land bank. A bank that issues long-term loans on real estate in return for mortgages.

land-ed (lān'did) *adj.* 1. Owning land: *landed gentry*. 2. Consisting of land or real estate: *a landed estate*.

land-fall (lān'dfōl') *n.* 1. The sighting or reaching of land on a voyage or flight. 2. The land sighted or reached.

land grant. A government grant of public land for a railroad, highway, or state college.

land-grant (lān'dgrānt', -grānt') *adj.* Being a state educational institution given land by the Federal government under provision of the Morrill Act of 1862 on the condition that it offer courses in agriculture and the mechanical arts.

land-grave (lān'dgrāv') *n.* 1. In medieval Germany, a count having jurisdiction over a particular territory. 2. The title of certain German princes. [German *Landgraf*, from Middle High German *lantgrāve*: *lant*, land, from Old High German (see *lendh-* in Appendix*) + *grāve*, count, from Old High German *grāvo* (see *gravo-* in Appendix*).]

land-gra-vi-ate (lān'dgrāv-ē-it, -āt') *n.* The office, jurisdiction, or territory of a landgrave.

land-gra-vine (lān'dgrāv-ēn') *n.* 1. The wife of a landgrave. 2. The female ruler of a landgraviate. [German *Landgräfin*, from Middle High German *lantgrāvinne*, from *lantgrāve*, *LAND-GRAVE*.]

land-hold-er (lān'dhōl'dər) *n.* A person who owns or holds land. —*land'hold'ing* *n.*

land-ing (lān'ding) *n.* *Abbr.* **ldg.** 1. a. The act or process of coming to land or rest, especially after a voyage or flight. b. A termination, especially of a voyage or flight. 2. A site for landing. 3. a. An intermediate platform on a flight of stairs. b. The area at the top or bottom of a staircase.

landing craft. *Abbr.* **L.C.** A flat-bottomed naval craft specifically designed to convey troops and equipment from ship to shore.

landing field. A tract of land providing a runway for aircraft.

landing gear. The undercarriage of an aircraft, designed to support the weight of the craft and its load on the ground.

landing strip. An aircraft runway without airport facilities.

land-la-dy (lān'dlā-dē) *n.*, *pl.* -dies. 1. A woman who owns and rents real estate, especially dwelling units. 2. A woman who runs a rooming house or inn. 3. The wife of a landlord.

land-ler (lānt'lər) *n.* 1. An Austrian country dance for couples in triple time. 2. The music for this dance. [German, from (dialectal) *Landl*, Upper Austria, where the dance originated.]

land-less (lān'dlis) *adj.* Owning or having no land.

land-locked (lān'dlōkt') *adj.* 1. Surrounded or nearly surrounded by land. 2. Confined to inland waters, as certain salmon.

land-lord (lān'dlōrd') *n.* 1. A person from whom a tenant leases land, buildings, or dwelling units. 2. A man who runs a rooming house or inn; innkeeper.

land-lord-ism (lān'dlōr-dīz'm) *n.* 1. Land management in which ownership of land is vested in a private individual or group that leases it to tenants. 2. The principles and practices of landlords collectively.

land-lub-ber (lān'dlūb'ər) *n.* A person unfamiliar with the sea or seamanship. [*LAND* + *LUBBER*.]

land-mark (lān'dmārk') *n.* 1. A fixed marker, as a concrete block, indicating a boundary line. 2. A prominent and identifying feature of a landscape. 3. An event marking an important stage of development or a turning point in history. 4. A building or site having historical significance and marked for preservation by a municipal or national government.

land mine. An explosive mine laid usually just below the surface of the ground.

land office. A government office that handles and keeps records of any sale or transfer of public land.

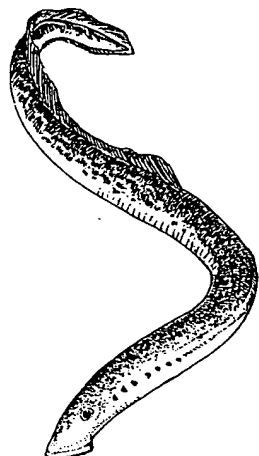
land-of-fice business (lān'dō'fis, -ō'fis). A thriving, extensive, or rapidly moving business.

Land of Nod (nōd). 1. The land east of Eden where Cain lived after killing Abel. Genesis 4:16. 2. *Informal.* Sleep.

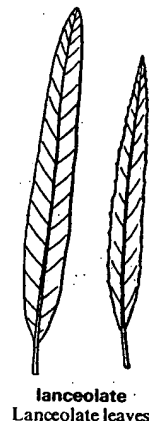
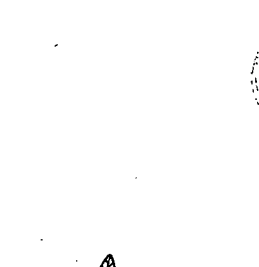
Land of the Midnight Sun. 1. Land lying north of the Arctic circle and having continuous daylight throughout the short summer. 2. Norway.

Land of the Rising Sun. Japan.

land-own-er (lān'dō'nər) *n.* One who owns land. —*land'-own'er-ship* *n.* —*land'-own'ing* *n.* & *adj.*



lamprey
Petromyzon marinus
Above: Detail of mouth



lanceolate
Lanceolate leaves



landau -
The British royal family
in a landau, 1965

sent, proclaim, command (last sense adopted from *bidden*), *bead*, *boden*, Old English *bēdan*, *bēad* (plural *budon*), (*ge*)*boden*. See *bheudh-* in Appendix.*] —*bid' der n.*

Usage: *Bid* (noun), in the noncommercial sense of effort or striving, is acceptable in writing to 82 per cent of the Usage Panel: *a bid to restore harmony in the party.*

b.i.d. Medicine. twice a day (Latin *bis in die*).

bi-dar-ka (bi-dār'kə) *n.* A hide-covered canoe used by Eskimos of Alaska. [Russian *baidarka*, diminutive of *baidarat*.]

bid-da-ble (bid'ə-bəl) *adj.* 1. Worth bidding on. 2. Docile; tractable: "make him as biddable as a house-dog" (Yeats).

bid-den. A past participle of *bid*.

bid-ding (bid'ing) *n.* 1. A demand that something be done; a command. 2. A request to appear; a summons. 3. The bids collectively, as at an auction or in playing cards. —at the bidding of. At the service of. —do the bidding of. To follow the orders of.

bid-dle (bid'l), **George.** 1885–1973. American painter and sculptor.

Bid-dle (bid'l), **John.** 1615–1662. English Unitarian theologian; banished and imprisoned for blasphemy.

Bid-dle (bid'l), **Nicholas.** 1786–1844. American financier; opponent of President Jackson in national bank controversy.

bid-dy' (bid'ē) *n., pl. -dies.* A hen; fowl. [Possibly imitative of a call used for chickens.]

bid-dy? (bid'ē) *n., pl. -dies. Slang.* A garrulous old woman. [Pet form of *BRIDGET*.]

bide (bid) *v.* *bided* or *bode* (bōd), *bided*, *biding*, *bides*. —*intr.* 1. To stay in some condition or state; remain the same: "England shall bide till Judgement Tide." (Kipling). 2. a. To wait; tarry: *bide for a while.* b. To stay; to bide at home. c. To be left; remain: "Waters stink soon, if in one place they bide." (Donne). —*tr.* To await. Used only in the phrase *bide one's time*. [*Bide*, *bode*; Middle English *biden*, *bod* (past singular), Old English *bidan*, *bād*. See *bheudh-* in Appendix.*]

bi-den-tate (bi-dēn'tāt') *adj.* Having two teeth or two toothlike processes.

bi-det (bē-dā') *n.* A basinlike fixture designed to be straddled for bathing the genitals and the posterior parts. [French, "small horse," possibly from Old French *bider*, to trot.]

Bie-der-mei-er (bē'dər-mī'ər) *adj.* 1. Of or pertaining to a type of German furniture of the first half of the 19th century, modeled after Empire styles. 2. Staid and conventional; philistine. [After Gottlieb *Biedermeier*, the imaginary author of poems written by L. Eichroth (1827–1892), German poet.]

Biel (bēl), **French Bienne** (byēn). A manufacturing city and railroad junction in northwestern Switzerland. Population, 67,000.

Bie-le-feld (bē'lə-fēlt') *n.* An industrial city of North Rhine-Westphalia, West Germany, about 40 miles east of Münster. Population, 170,000.

bi-en-ni-al (bi-ēn'ē-əl) *adj.* 1. Lasting or living for two years. 2. Happening every second year. 3. Having a normal life cycle of two years. Compare *annual*, *perennial*. —*n.* 1. An event that occurs once every two years. 2. A plant that normally requires two years to reach maturity, producing leaves in the first year, blooming and producing fruit in its second year, and then dying. —See Usage note at *bimonthly*. [From *BIENNIIUM*.]

bi-en-ni-al-ly *adv.*

bi-en-ni-um (bi-ēn'ē-əm) *n., pl. -ums or -ennia* (-ēn'ē-ə). A two-year period. [Latin: *bi- + annus*, year (see *at-* in Appendix*);]

bier (bir) *n.* A stand on which a corpse, or a coffin containing a corpse, is placed to lie in state or to be carried to the grave. [Middle English *bere*, Old English *bēr*, *bær*. See *bher-* in Appendix*]

Bierce (birs), **Ambrose (Gwinett).** 1842–1914? American short-story writer; disappeared in Mexico (1913).

bi-fa-cial (bi-fā'shəl) *adj.* 1. Having two faces, fronts, or façades. 2. Botany. Having upper and lower surfaces that are distinct and dissimilar. 3. Having two opposing surfaces that are alike.

biff (bif) *tr.v.* *biffed*, *biffing*, *biffs*. *Slang.* To strike or punch. —*n.* *Slang.* A blow or cuff. [Imitative.]

bi-fid (bi'fid) *adj.* Divided or cleft into two parts or lobes. [Latin *bifidus*: *bi-* + *-fid-*.] —*bi-fid'i-ty n.* —*bi'fid-ly adv.*

bi-fi-lar (bi-fi'lār) *adj.* Fitted with or involving the use of two threads or wires. [*bi-* + *FILAR*.] —*bi-fi'lār-ly adv.*

bi-flag-el-late (bi-flāj'ə-līt, -lāt') *adj. Biology.* Having two flagella: a *biflagellate* protozoan.

bi-fo-cal (bi-fō'kəl) *adj.* 1. Having two different focal lengths. 2. Correcting for both near and distant vision.

bi-fo-cals (bi-fō'kəlz) *pl.n.* Eyeglasses with bifocal lenses, used for both near and distant vision.

bi-fo-li-ate (bi-fō'lē-īt, -āt') *adj.* Having two leaves.

bi-fo-li-o-late (bi-fō'lē-ə-lāt', -līt) *adj.* Having two leaflets.

bi-for-ate (bi-fōr'āt, -fōr'āt, bi'fō-rāt') *adj. Biology.* Having two openings or perforations. [*bi-* + Latin *foratus*, past participle of *forāre*, to pierce, bore (see *bher-* in Appendix*);]

bi-forked (bi'fōrkt') *adj.* Divided into two branches; bifurcate.

bi-form (bi'fōrm') *adj.* Also *bi-formed* (-fōrmd'). Having a combination of features or qualities of two distinct forms.

bi-fur-cate (bi'fūr-kāt, bi-fūr'kāt') *v.* *-cated*, *-cating*, *-cates*. —*tr.* To divide or separate into two parts or branches. —*intr.* To separate into two parts; fork. —*adj.* (bi'fūr-kāt, -kīt, bi-fūr'kāt, -kīt). Also *bi-fur-cat-ed* (-kāt'id). Forked or divided into two parts. [Medieval Latin *bifurcatus* (adjective), from Latin *bifurcus*, two-forked: *bi-* + *furca*, forked stake (see *fork*).]

—*bi-fur-cate-ly adv.* —*bi-fur-ca-tion n.*

big (big) *adj.* bigger, biggest. 1. Of considerable size, number,

quantity, magnitude, or extent; large. 2. a. *Obsolete.* Of great force or violence: "Farewell the plumed troop and the big wars" (Shakespeare). b. Having great intensity; great; strong.

3. Grown-up. 4. Pregnant. Used with *with*: *big with child*.

5. Filled up; brimming over. 6. Having or exercising considerable authority, control, or influence. 7. Conspicuous in position, wealth, or importance; prominent; influential. 8. Of great significance; important; momentous. 9. Loud and firm; resounding. 10. Bountiful; generous; kindly. 11. *Informal.* Self-important; boastful; pompous. —See Synonyms at *large*. —*big on. Informal.* Enthusiastic about; partial to: *big on meat and potatoes*. —*adv.* 1. Pompously; pretentiously; boastfully: "Toad talked big about all he was going to do in the days to come." (Kenneth Grahame). 2. With considerable success; in an outstanding manner. [Middle English *big*, *byg*, strong, stout, full-grown, probably from Scandinavian, akin to Norwegian dialectal *bugge*, strong man. See *beu-* in Appendix*]

—*big' gish adj.* —*big'ly adv.* —*big'ness n.*

big-a-mist (big'ə-mist) *n.* One who commits bigamy.

big-a-mous (big'ə-məs) *adj.* 1. Involving bigamy. 2. Guilty of bigamy. —*big'ə-mous-ly adv.*

big-a-my (big'ə-mē) *n., pl. -mies. Law.* The criminal offense of marrying one person while still legally married to another. [Middle English *bigamie*, from Old French, from *bigame*, bigamous, from Late Latin *bigamus*: *bi-* + *-gamos*.]

big-ar-reau (big'ə-rō') *n.* Any of several varieties of sweet cherry with firm, often light-colored flesh. [French, from *bigarrer*, to variegate: *bi-* + Old French *garre*; variegated.]

big bang theory. A cosmological theory, the expanding universe theory (see).

Big Ben. 1. The bell in the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament in London, England. 2. The clock itself.

Big Bend National Park. A national park, 1,080 square miles in area, in western Texas on the Mexican border.

Big Bertha. A large cannon used by the Germans in World War I. [Translation of German *dicke Bertha*, "fat Bertha," after *Bertha* Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach (1886–1957), proprietress of the Krupp Works, where the cannon was made.]

big brother. 1. An older brother, or someone having a similar protective relationship. 2. *Capital B, capital B.* A vague, threatening figure representing the all-seeing, omnipresent power of an authoritarian government. [Sense 2, from *Big Brother*, a character in George Orwell's novel 1984.]

Big Dipper. An asterism in the constellation Ursa Major, consisting of seven stars, four forming the bowl and three the handle, of a dipper-shaped configuration. Also called the "Plow," the "Wain," the "Wagon."

bi-gem-i-nal (bi-jēm'ə-nəl) *adj.* Occurring in pairs; twinned. [From Late Latin *bigeminus*, doubled: *bi-* + Latin *geminus*, paired, double, twin (see *yem-* in Appendix*);]

big-eye (big'ī) *n.* Any of several marine fishes of the family Priacanthidae, having large eyes and reddish scales.

big game. 1. Large animals or fish hunted or caught for sport. 2. *Slang.* An important objective. —*big'-game' adj.*

big-gi-ty (big'gi-tī) *adj.* Also *big-gy-ty. Informal.* Self-important; conceited; stuck-up. [From *big*.]

big-head (big'hēd') *n.* 1. *Informal.* Conceit; egotism. 2. Any of various diseases of animals characterized by swelling of the head. —*big'head'ed adj.* —*big'head'ed-ness n.*

big-heart-ed (big'hārt'id) *adj.* Generous; charitable. —*big'-heart'ed-ly adv.* —*big'-heart'ed-ness n.*

big-horn (big'hōrn') *n.* A wild sheep, *Ovis canadensis*, of the mountains of western North America, having massive, curved horns in the male. Also called "mountain sheep," "Rocky Mountain sheep."

Big-horn Mountains (big'hōrn'). A range in north-central Wyoming, part of the Rocky Mountains. Highest elevation, Cloud Peak (13,165 feet).

Big-horn River (big'hōrn'). A river rising in west-central Wyoming and flowing 336 miles north to join the Yellowstone River in Montana.

big house. Also *Big House. Slang.* A penitentiary.

bight (bit) *n.* 1. a. A loop in a rope. b. The middle or slack part of an extended rope. 2. A bend or curve, especially in a shoreline. 3. A wide bay formed by such a bend or curve. —*tr.v.* *bighted*, *bighting*, *bights*. To tie in or secure with a bight of a rope. [Middle English *byght*, bend, bay, armpit, Old English *hyht*, bend, angle. See *bheug-* in Appendix*]

big-league (big'lēg') *adj.* Major-league (see).

big-mouth (big'mouth') *n.* 1. Broadly, any of various fishes having unusually large mouths. 2. *Slang.* A loud-mouthed or gossipy person. —*big'mouthed' (-mouth'd', -mouth't') adj.*

big-no-ni-a (big-nō'nē-ə) *n.* A plant of the genus *Bignonia*; especially, the cross-vine (see). [New Latin, after the Abbé Jean-Paul *Bignon* (1662–1743), librarian to Louis XV.].

big-ot (big'ət) *n.* A person of strong conviction or prejudice, especially in matters of religion, race, or politics, who is intolerant of those who differ with him. [French, from Old French *bigot*, a pejorative term for the Normans.]

big-ot-ed (big'ət'id) *adj.* Being or characteristic of a bigot. —*big'ot-ed-ly adv.* —*big'ot-ed-ness n.*

big-ot-ry (big'ət-ri) *n.* The attitude, state of mind, or behavior characteristic of a bigot; intolerance.

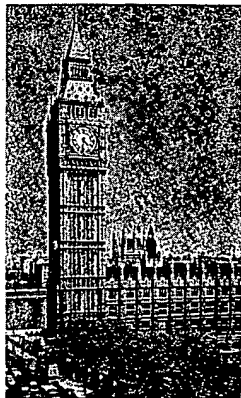
big shot. Slang. An important or influential person.

big time. Slang. The most prestigious level of attainment in a competitive field. —*big'-time' adj.* —*big'-tim'er n.*

big top. Informal. 1. The main tent of a circus. 2. The circus.

big tree. The giant sequoia (see).

big wheel. Slang. A person of importance or authority.



Big Ben



bighorn

Table I. (continued)

U.S. Customary Dry Measure	U.S. Equivalents	Metric Equivalents
pint	½ quart, 33.6 cubic inches	0.551 liter
quart	2 pints, 67.2 cubic inches	1.101 liters
peck	8 quarts, 537.605 cubic inches	8.810 liters
bushel	4 pecks, 2,150.42 cubic inches	35.238 liters

British Imperial Liquid and Dry Measure	U.S. Customary Equivalents	Metric Equivalents
fluid ounce	0.961 U.S. fluid ounce, 1.734 cubic inches	28.412 milliliters
pint	1.032 U.S. dry pints, 1.201 U.S. liquid pints, 34.678 cubic inches	568.26 milliliters
quart	1.032 U.S. dry quarts, 1.201 U.S. liquid quarts, 69.354 cubic inches	1.136 liters
gallon	1.201 U.S. gallons, 277.420 cubic inches	4.546 liters
peck	554.84 cubic inches	0.009 cubic meter
bushel	1.032 U.S. bushels, 2,219.36 cubic inches	0.036 cubic meter

Weight

U.S. Customary Unit (Avoirdupois)	U.S. Equivalents	Metric Equivalents
grain	0.036 dram, 0.002285 ounce	64.79891 milligrams
dram	27.344 grains, 0.0625 ounce	1.772 grams
ounce	16 drams, 437.5 grains	28.350 grams
pound	16 ounces, 7,000 grains	453.59237 grams
ton (short)	2,000 pounds	0.907 metric ton (1,000 kilograms)
ton (long)	1.12 short tons, 2,240 pounds	1.016 metric tons

Apothecary Weight Unit	U.S. Customary Equivalents	Metric Equivalents
scruple	20 grains	1.296 grams
dram	60 grains	3.888 grams
ounce	480 grains, 1.097 avoirdupois ounces	31.103 grams
pound	5,760 grains, 0.823 avoirdupois pound	373.242 grams

185,000. — *Mec'can* *adj.* & *n.*

mec-ca (mĕk'cə) *n.* Sometimes capital M. 1. A place regarded as the center of an activity or interest; a goal to which adherents of a faith or practice fervently aspire. 2. Any place visited by many people. [From MECCA as a goal of pilgrims.]

mech. 1. mechanical; mechanics. 2. mechanism.

me-chan-ic (mĭ-kăn'ik) *n.* A worker skilled in making, using, or repairing machines and tools. [From *mechanic*, earlier form of MECHANICAL.] — *me-chan'ic* *adj.*

me-chan-i-cal (mĭ-kăn'i-kəl) *adj.* *Abbr.* mech. 1. Of or pertaining to machines or tools. 2. Operated or produced by a machine. 3. Of, pertaining to, or governed by mechanics. 4. Acting or performing like a machine; automatic: *The speaker's delivery was mechanical.* 5. Pertaining to, produced by, or dominated by physical forces. 6. Interpreting and explaining the phenomena of the universe by referring to causally deter-

Scientific Measurement

The units tabulated in Table II are commonly used in science and engineering. They are primarily chosen from the fields of mechanics and electricity and magnetism and are a representative, not an exhaustive, selection.

SI units are given for all physical quantities listed. For those units having a special name in the International System, the name appears, along with the derivation of the unit from the fundamental SI quantities, which are defined as: meter (m), kilogram (kg), second (s), ampere (A), kelvin (K) or alternatively degree Kelvin (°K), and candela (cd). Two supplementary units, the radian (rad), for measuring plane angles, and the steradian (sr), for measuring solid angles, are used. These are "geometrical" rather than "physical" units, in the sense that their definitions are based on abstract geometrical concepts rather than on physical standards.

In some instances, it is customary practice to measure a quantity in units other than SI units; in such cases the appropriate unit is given in the right-hand column, along with a conversion to SI units.

Additional information on individual units, including those not tabulated, should be sought at the unit names in text.

Table II. Scientific Units

Quantity	SI Unit	Symbol	Derivation	Other Units
acceleration	meter per second squared	m/s ²		
angular acceleration	radian per second squared	rad/s ²		
angular velocity	radian per second	rad/s		
density	kilogram per cubic meter	kg/m ³		
electric capacitance	farad	F	(A·s/V)	
electric charge	coulomb	C	(A·s)	electrostatic unit (esu) = ⅓ × 10 ⁻⁹ C
electric current	ampere	A		
electric field strength	volt per meter	V/m		
electric resistance	ohm	Ω	(V/A)	
energy, work, quantity of heat	joule	J	(N·m)	electronvolt (eV) = 1.60207 × 10 ⁻¹⁹ J calorie (cal) = 4.186 J British thermal unit (Btu) = 1,054.8 J erg = 10 ⁻⁷ J foot-pound (ft·lb) = 1.3558 J
flux of light	lumen	lm	(cd·sr)	
force	newton	N	(kg·m/s ²)	dyne (dyn) = 10 ⁻⁵ N
frequency	hertz	Hz	(s ⁻¹)	formerly cycle per second (cps, c/sec)
illumination	lux	lx	(lm/m ²)	
inductance	henry	H	(V·s/A)	
length	meter	m		angstrom (Å) = 10 ⁻¹⁰ m
luminance	candela per square meter	cd/m ²		
magnetic field strength	ampere per meter	A/m		oersted (Oe) = (1/4π) × 10 ³ A/m
magnetic flux	weber	Wb	(V·s)	maxwell (Mx) = 10 ⁻⁸ Wb
magnetic flux density	tesla	T	(Wb/m ²)	gauss (G) = 10 ⁻⁴ T
magnetomotive force	ampere	A		
mass	kilogram	kg		
power	watt	W	(J/s)	horsepower (hp) = 745.7 W
pressure	newton per square meter	N/m ²		atmosphere (atm) = 1.01325 × 10 ⁵ N/m ² bar = 10 ⁵ N/m ²
velocity	meter per second	m/s		
voltage, potential difference, electromotive force	volt	V	(W/A)	

mined material forces; mechanistic. 7. Rare. Of or pertaining to manual labor, its tools, and its skills. — *n.* **Printing.** A layout consisting of type proofs, artwork, or both, exactly positioned and prepared for making an offset or other printing plate. Also called "paste-up." [Middle English, pertaining to manual labor, earlier *mechanic*, from Latin *mēchanicus*, from Greek *mēchanikos*, from *mēchanē*, contrivance, machine, from *mēkhos*, means, expedient. See *magh* in Appendix.*] — *me-chan'i-cal-ly* *adv.* — *me-chan'i-cal-ness* *n.*

mechanical advantage. The ratio of the output force of a machine to the input force.

mechanical drawing. 1. **Drafting** (*see*). 2. Any drawing that enables measurements to be interpreted, for example, an architect's plans.

mechanical engineering. *Abbr.* M.E. The branch of engineering that encompasses the generation and application of heat

t tight/th thin, path/th this, bathe/ū cut/ūr urge/v valve/w with/y yes/z zebra, size/zh vision/c about, item, edible, gallop, circus/ā Fr. ami/œ Fr. feu, Ger. schön/ū Fr. tu, Ger. über/KH Ger. ich, Scot. loch/N Fr. bon. *Follows main vocabulary. †Of obscure origin.

worry. The construction *content oneself* with also indicates self-limitation: *content oneself with four mugs of ale*.

content analysis. The systematic analysis of the content rather than the structure of a communication; especially, the determination for psychological study of the frequency of occurrence of thematic and symbolic elements, including ideas, feelings, assertions, and personal references, in responses to a test or in another communication.

con-tent-ed (kən-tēn'tid) *adj.* Satisfied with things as they are; content. See Usage note at *content*. —*con-tent-ed-ly adv.* —*con-tent-ed-ness n.*

con-ten-tion (kən-tēn'shən) *n.* 1. A verbal struggling; dispute; controversy. 2. A striving to win in competition or rivalry. 3. An assertion put forward in argument. —See Synonyms at *discord*. [Middle English *contencioun*, from Old French *contention*, from Latin *contentiō*, from *contendere*, *CONTEND*.]

con-ten-tious (kən-tēn'shəs) *adj.* 1. Given to contention; quarrelsome. 2. Involving contention. —See Synonyms at *belligerent*. —*con-ten-tious-ly adv.* —*con-ten-tious-ness n.*

con-tent-ment (kən-tēnt'mənt) *n.* The state of being contented. **con-ter-mi-nous** (kən-tūr'mə-nəs) *adj.* Also *con-ter-mi-nal* (-nəl), *co-ter-mi-nous* (kō-tūr'mə-nəs). 1. Having a boundary in common; contiguous. 2. Contained in the same boundaries; coextensive. [Latin *conterminus*: *com-*, together + *terminus*, boundary, limit (see *ter-* in Appendix*).] —*con-ter-mi-nous-ly adv.* —*con-ter-mi-nous-ness n.*

con-test (kōn'test) *n.* 1. A struggle for superiority or victory between rivals. 2. Any competition; especially, one in which entrants perform separately and are rated by judges. —See Synonyms at *conflict*. —*v.* (kōn'test', kōn'test') *contested, -testing, -tests.* —*tr.* 1. To compete or strive for. 2. To attempt to disprove or invalidate; to dispute; to challenge: *contest a will*. —*intr.* To struggle or compete; contend. Used with *with* or *against*. —See Synonyms at *oppose*. [Old French *conteste*, from *contester*, from Latin *contestāri*, bring in (a lawsuit) by calling witnesses (from both parties): *com-*, together + *testāri*, to bear witness, from *testis*, a witness (see *test-* in Appendix*).] —*con-test-a-ble adj.* —*con-test-a-tion n.* —*con-test'er n.*

con-test-ant (kōn'test'ənt, kōn'tēs'tənt) *n.* 1. One who takes part in a contest; competitor. 2. One who contests something, such as an election or a will.

con-text (kōn'tēkst) *n.* 1. The part of a written or spoken statement in which a word or passage at issue occurs; that which leads up to and follows and often specifies the meaning of a particular expression. 2. The circumstances in which a particular event occurs; a situation. [Middle English, from Latin *contextus*, coherence, sequence of words, from the past participle of *contexere*, to join together, weave: *com-*, together + *texere*, to join, weave, plait (see *teks-* in Appendix*).]

con-text-u-al (kōn-tēks'chōō-əl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or depending upon the context. —*con-text-u-al-ly adv.*

con-text-ure (kōn-tēks'chūr) *n.* 1. The act of weaving or assembling parts. 2. An arrangement of interconnected parts; a structure. —*con-text-ur-al, con-text-ured adj.*

Con-ti (kōn'tē), Niccolò de'. Venetian merchant, traveler, and writer of the 15th century.

con-ti-gu-i-ty (kōn'tā-gyōō'-tē, kōn'ti-) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. The state of being contiguous. 2. A continuous mass or series.

con-tig-u-ous (kōn-tig'yōō-əs) *adj.* 1. Sharing an edge or boundary; touching. 2. Nearby; neighboring; adjacent. 3. Adjacent in time; immediately preceding or following. [Latin *contiguus*, from *contingere*, to touch on all sides, to CONTACT.] —*con-tig-u-ous-ly adv.* —*con-tig-u-ous-ness n.*

con-ti-nence (kōn'tā-nəns) *n.* Also *con-ti-nen-cy* (-nən-sē). 1. Self-restraint; moderation. 2. Partial or complete abstention from sexual activity. —See Synonyms at *abstinence*.

con-ti-nent (kōn'tā-nənt) *n.* 1. *Abbr. cont.* One of the principal land masses of the earth, usually regarded as including Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America. 2. *Rare.* A thing that holds or retains. —*the Continent.* The mainland of Europe. [Latin (*terra*) *continēns*, "continuous (land)," from the present participle of *continēre*, to hold together, continue. See *continent* (adjective).]

con-ti-nent (kōn'tā-nənt) *adj.* 1. Self-restrained; moderate. 2. Partially or completely abstaining from sexual activity. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *continēns*, present participle of *continēre*, to hold together, CONTAIN.] —*con-ti-nent-ly adv.*

con-ti-nen-tal (kōn'tā-nēn'təl) *adj.* 1. Of or like a continent. 2. *Usually capital C.* Of or relating to the mainland of Europe; European. 3. *Capital C.* Of or pertaining to the American colonies during and immediately after the Revolutionary War. —*n.* 1. *Usually capital C.* An inhabitant of the mainland of Europe; a European. 2. *Capital C.* A soldier in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. 3. A piece of paper money issued by the Continental Congress during the Revolutionary War. —*con-ti-nen-tal-ism' n.* —*con-ti-nen-tal-ist n.* —*con-ti-nen-tal-ity n.* —*con-ti-nen-tal-ly adv.*

continental code. A form of Morse code having no spaces between the dot and dash signals, commonly used for telegraphic communication outside the United States and Canada. Also called "international Morse code."

Continental Congress. Either of two American legislative assemblies that governed the United States during the Revolutionary era. The first convened in 1774 to voice grievances against Great Britain. The second, convening in 1775, established the Continental Army and served both as the legislative and as the executive arm of the government until the Constitution took effect in 1789.

continental divide. 1. An extensive stretch of high ground from each side of which the river systems of a continent flow in opposite directions. 2. *Capital C, capital D.* In North America, such a stretch formed by the crests of the Rocky Mountains. In this sense, also called "Great Divide."

continental drift. The theoretical slow shifting of continents due to weakness in the suboceanic crust.

continental shelf. A generally shallow, flat submerged portion of a continent, extending to a point of steep descent to the ocean floor.

con-tin-gence (kən-tin'jəns) *n.* 1. A joining or touching. 2. Contingency.

con-tin-gen-cy (kən-tin'jən-sē) *n., pl. -cies*. 1. a. An event that may occur but that is not likely or intended; a possibility. b. A possibility that must be prepared against; future emergency. 2. The condition of being dependent upon chance; uncertainty; fortuitousness. 3. Something incidental to something else.

con-tin-gent (kən-tin'jənt) *adj.* 1. Liable to occur, but not with certainty; possible. 2. Dependent upon conditions or events not yet established; conditional. Often used with *on* or *upon*. 3. Happening by chance or accident; fortuitous. 4. *Logic.* Possessing a truth value derived from facts apart from the proposition itself; not necessarily true or false. Said of a proposition. —See Synonyms at *accidental*. —*n.* 1. A contingent event or condition. 2. A share or quota contributed to a general effort, as of troops. 3. A representative group forming part of an assemblage. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *contingens*, present participle of *contingere*, to touch on all sides, happen, to CONTACT.] —*con-tin-gent-ly adv.*

con-tin-u-al (kən-tin'yōō-əl) *adj.* 1. Repeated regularly and frequently; recurring often. 2. Continuous in time; incessant: "These people are under continual disquietudes, never enjoying a minute's peace of mind" (Swift). —*con-tin-u-al-ly adv.*

Synonyms: *continual, continuous, constant, ceaseless, incessant, perpetual, eternal, perennial, interminable.* These adjectives primarily mean occurring over and over during a long period of time or indefinitely. *Continual* can apply to uninterrupted action but is now chiefly restricted to what is intermittent or repeated at intervals: *the continual banging of the shutters*. *Continuous* implies either action without interruption in time or unbroken extent in space: *a continuous vigil; a continuous slope of terrain*. *Constant*, applied to action, stresses its steadiness or persistence and unvarying nature. *Ceaseless* and *incessant* pertain to uninterrupted action. *Perpetual* emphasizes both steadiness and duration of action. *Eternal* refers to what is everlasting, especially to action seemingly without beginning or end in time. *Perennial* describes existence that goes on year after year, often with the suggestion of self-renewal. *Interminable* literally refers to what has no end, but more often is applied to a prolonged and wearisome action.

con-tin-u-ance (kən-tin'yōō-əns) *n.* 1. The act or fact of continuing. 2. The time during which something exists or lasts; duration. 3. A continuation; sequel. 4. *Law.* Postponement or adjournment to a future date.

Usage: *Continuance*, except in its legal sense, and *continuation* are sometimes interchangeable. *Continuance*, however, has particular reference to duration of a condition: *a person's continuance in government service; a machine's continuance in working order*. *Continuation* applies especially to prolongation or resumption of action and to physical extension. *Continuity* has the more special sense of that which is uninterrupted.

con-tin-u-ant (kən-tin'yōō-ənt) *n.* *Phonetics.* A consonant, such as *s, z, or f*, that may be prolonged as long as the breath lasts without a change in quality. Compare *stop*. [French, from Latin *continuāns*, present participle of *continuāre*, CONTINUE.]

con-tin-u-a-tion (kən-tin'yōō-ə'shən) *n.* 1. a. The act or fact of continuing. b. The state of being continued. See Usage note at *continuance*. 2. A part by which something is carried on or extended; supplement; sequel.

con-tin-u-a-tive (kən-tin'yōō-ə'tiv) *adj.* Serving to continue or cause continuation. —*n.* Something that expresses or causes continuation. —*con-tin-u-a-tive-ly adv.*

con-tin-u-a-tor (kən-tin'yōō-ə'tər) *n.* One that continues; especially, a person who resumes the work of another.

con-tin-ue (kən-tin'yōō) *v.* -ued, -uing, -ues. —*intr.* 1. To go on with a particular action or in a particular condition; persist. 2. To exist over a prolonged period; last. 3. To remain in the same state, capacity, or place. 4. To go on after an interruption; resume. —*tr.* 1. To carry forward; persist in. 2. To carry further in time, space, or development; extend. 3. To cause to remain or last; retain. 4. To carry on after an interruption; resume. 5. *Law.* To postpone or adjourn. [Middle English *continuen*, from Old French *continuer*, from Latin *continuāre*, from *continuus*, continuous, from *continēre*, to hold together, be continuous, CONTAIN.] —*con-tin-u-a-ble adj.* —*con-tin-u-er n.*

con-ti-nu-i-ty (kōn'tā-nōō'-tē, kōn'tā-nyōō'-) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. The state or quality of being continuous. See Usage note at *continuance*. 2. An uninterrupted succession; unbroken course. 3. A detailed shooting script consulted to avoid errors and discrepancies from shot to shot in a film. 4. A script for all the spoken parts of a radio or television program.

con-tin-u-o (kən-tin'yōō-ō) *n., pl. -os*. 1. A typically keyboard accompaniment for a solo instrument in which numerals indicate the successive chords, the actual notes played being left to the performer. Also called "figured bass." 2. A full scoring of a part originally written as a continuo. [Italian, "continuous," from Latin *continuus*, CONTINUOUS.]

con-tin-u-ous (kən-tin'yōō-əs) *adj.* 1. Extending or prolonged without interruption or cessation; unceasing. 2. *Mathematics.*

Sierra Leone. 2. A member of this people. 3. The Mande language spoken by the Susu.

su-sur-ra-tion (sōō'sā-rā'shon) *n.* Also **su-sur-rus** (sōō-sūr'əs). A soft, whispering or rustling sound; a murmur; a whisper: "There was a low susurrat ion of relief among all the rest." (John C. Powys). [Middle English, from Late Latin *susurrat iō*, from Latin *susurrare*, to whisper, from *susurrus*, whisper. See *swer* in Appendix.*] —**su-sur-rant** (sōō-sūr'ənt), **su-sur-rus** (-sūr'əs) *adj.*

Suth-er-land (sūth'ər-lənd). A county occupying 2,027 square miles in northern Scotland. Population, 13,000.

Suth-er-land Falls (sūth'ər-lənd). A waterfall, 1,904 feet high, in southwestern South Island, New Zealand.

Sut-lej (sūt'ləj). A river rising in southwestern Tibet and flowing about 850 miles generally southwest across India to join the Chenab in West Pakistan.

sut-ler (sūt'lər) *n.* Formerly, a camp follower who peddled provisions to the soldiers. [Middle Dutch *soeteler*, bad cook, camp cook, probably from Middle High German *sudelen*, to do sloppy work. See *sou* in Appendix.*]

su-tra (sōō'trā) *n.* Also **sut-ta** (sōō'tā). 1. *Hinduism*. Any of various aphoristic doctrinal summaries produced generally between 500 and 200 B.C. and later incorporated into Hindu and Buddhist literature. 2. *Buddhism*. Any scriptural narrative; especially, any text traditionally regarded as a discourse of the Buddha. [Sanskrit *sūtra*, thread, string, collection of aphorisms or rules. See *syū* in Appendix.*]

sut-tee (sūt'tē, sūt'tē) *n.* 1. The act or practice, now forbidden by law, of a Hindu widow cremating herself on her husband's funeral pyre. 2. A widow so cremated. [Sanskrit *sati*, good woman, faithful wife, from *sat*, "existing," virtuous. See *es* in Appendix.*]

Sut-ter's Mill (sūt'orz). A site in eastern California where gold was found in 1848 on the property of John August Sutter, a Swiss pioneer, thus precipitating the gold rush of 1849.

Sut-ton (sūt'n). A borough of London, England, comprising the former administrative divisions of Beddington and Wallington, Carshalton, and Sutton and Cheam. Population, 169,000.

su-ture (sōō'chər) *n.* 1. a. The process of joining two surfaces or edges together along a line by or as if by sewing. b. The material used in this procedure, as thread, gut, or wire. 2. The line so formed. 3. *Anatomy*. The line of junction or an immovable joint between two bones, particularly of the skull. 4. *Biology*. A seamlike joint or line of articulation, such as the line of dehiscence in a seed or fruit or the spiral seam marking the junction of whorls of a gastropod shell. —*tr.v.* *sutured*, *-turing*, *-tures*. *Surgery*. To join by means of sutures; sew up. [Old French, from Latin *sūtura*, a sewing together, seam, suture, from *suere* (past participle *sūtus*), to sew. See *syū* in Appendix.*] —**su-tural** *adj.* —**su-tur-al-ly** *adv.*

Su-va (sōō'vā). The capital of Fiji, a seaport on the southeastern coast of Viti Levu. Population, 37,000.

Su-wan-nee (sō-wā'nē). Also **Swa-nee** (swā'nē). A river rising in the Okefenokee Swamp of southeastern Georgia and meandering 250 miles across northern Florida to the Gulf of Mexico.

su-ze-rain (sōō'zə-rən, -rān') *n.* 1. Formerly, a feudal lord to whom fealty was due. 2. A nation that controls another nation in international affairs but allows it domestic sovereignty. —*adj.* Characteristic of a suzerain; sovereign. [French *suzerain*: *sus*, up, above, from Latin *sūsum*, *sursum*, (turned) upward, up: *sub*, up + *versum*, neuter past participle of *vertere*, to turn (see *wer* in Appendix.*) + (*sou*) *verain*, from Old French *souverain*, SOVEREIGN.]

su-ze-rain-ty (sōō'zə-rən-tē, -rān'tē) *n., pl. -ties*. The power or domain of a suzerain.

s.v. sailing vessel.

Sval-bard (sfāl'bār). A territory of Norway comprising Spitsbergen and other island groups in the Arctic Ocean.

Sved-berg (sfād'bēr-y). Theodor. 1884-1971. Swedish chemist; studied colloids.

svelte (svēlt) *adj.* *svelter*, *sveltest*. Slender or graceful in figure or outline; willowy; slim. [French, from Italian *svolto*, "stretched," slender, from *svellere*, to pull out, stretch out, from Vulgar Latin *evellere* (unattested), from Latin *evellere*: *ex*, out + *vellere*, to pull (see *wel* in Appendix.*).]

Sverd-lovsk (sfērd'lōfsk). Formerly **E-kat-er-in-burg** (ē-kā'tər-in-būrg). A city of the Soviet Union, in the west-central Russian S.F.S.R.; the site of the execution of Nicholas II and his family (1918). Population, 1,026,000.

Sver-drup (sfēr'drəp), **Otto Neumann**. 1855-1930. Norwegian Arctic explorer.

Sver-drup Islands (sfēr'drəp). A group of islands in the Arctic Ocean west of Ellesmere Island, part of the Northwest Territories, Canada.

Sve-rige. The Swedish name for Sweden.

svgs. savings.

Sviz-ze-ra. The Italian name for Switzerland.

sw short wave; short-wave.

SW southwest.

sw. switch.

Sw. Sweden; Swedish.

S.W.A. South-West Africa.

swab (swōb) *n.* Also **swob**. 1. A small piece of cotton or other absorbent material attached to the end of a stick or wire and used for cleansing or applying medicine. 2. A specimen of mucus or other material removed with such an instrument. 3. A mop, especially of yarn, for cleaning decks, floors, or other large areas. 4. A person who uses such a mop, especially on a ship. Also called "swabby." 5. A lout. —*tr.v.* *swabbed*, *swab-*

bing, *swabs*. Also *swob*. To use a swab on; clean or treat with a swab. [Probably from Middle Dutch *swabbe*, mop. See *swep* in Appendix.*]

Swa-bi-a (swā'bē-ə). *German Schwaben* (shvā'bən). 1. A historic region of southwestern Germany. 2. A duchy of southern Germany from the 10th to the mid-13th century. —**Swa-bi-an** *adj. & n.*

swad-dle (swōd'l) *tr.v.* *-dled*, *-dling*, *-dles*. 1. To wrap or bind in bandages; swathe. 2. To wrap (a baby) in swaddling clothes. 3. To restrain or restrict; smother. —*n.* A band or cloth used for swaddling. [Middle English *swadlen*, *swethelen*, from *swethel*, swaddling clothes, Old English *swæthel*, probably from *swathian*, to SWATHE.]

swaddling clothes. 1. Formerly, strips of linen or other cloth wound about a newborn infant. 2. Any restrictions imposed upon the immature. Also called "swaddling bands."

swag (swäg) *n.* 1. Goods or property obtained by forcible or illicit means. 2. *Australian*. The pack or bundle of a swagman. —*intr.v.* *swagged*, *swagging*, *swags*. *Chiefly British*. To lurch or sway. [Probably from Scandinavian, akin to Norwegian *swaga*, to sway. See *sweng* in Appendix.*]

swage (swāj) *n.* 1. A tool used in bending or shaping cold metal. 2. A stamp or die for marking or shaping metal with a hammer. 3. A swage block. —*tr.v.* *swaged*, *swaging*, *swages*. To bend or shape by using a swage. [Middle English, from Old French *souaige*, possibly from Vulgar Latin *sōca* (unattested), rope, from Celtic *sōg* (unattested).]

swage block. A metal block having holes or grooves for shaping metal objects.

swag-ger (swäg'ər) *v.* *-gered*, *-gering*, *-gers*. —*intr.* 1. To walk or conduct oneself with an insolent air; to strut. 2. To brag; bluster. —*tr.* To influence or affect by swaggering. —*n.* 1. A swaggering movement or gait. 2. Boastful or conceited expression; braggadocio. [Probably from SWAG.] —**swag-ger-er** *n.* —**swag-ger-ing-ly** *adv.*

swagger stick. A short metal-tipped cane typically carried by military officers.

swag-man (swäg'män') *n., pl. -mēn* (-mēn'). *Australian*. A man who seeks work while traveling about carrying his pack or swag; a migrant or itinerant worker.

Swa-hi-li (swā'hē'lē) *n., pl. Swahili* or *-lis*. 1. A Bantu language of eastern and central Africa, widely used as a lingua franca. 2. One of the original speakers of this language, a Bantu people of Zanzibar and the neighboring mainland. [Swahili, "(people) belonging to the coasts": Arabic *sawāhil*, plural of *sāhil*, coast + *-iy*, belonging to.] —**Swa-hi-li-an** *adj.*

swain (swān) *n.* 1. A country youth; especially, a young shepherd. 2. A lover. [Middle English *swein*, *swayne*, from Old Norse *sveinn*, a boy, herdsman. See *sou* in Appendix.*]

swale (swāl) *n.* Also **swail**. 1. A low tract of land, especially moist or marshy ground. 2. Shade. [Middle English, a shade, shady place, perhaps from Scandinavian, akin to Old Norse *swalr*, cool. See *swel* in Appendix.*]

swal-low (swāl'ō) *v.* *-lowed*, *-lowing*, *-lows*. —*tr.* 1. To cause (food, for example) to pass from the mouth via the throat and the esophagus into the stomach by muscular action; ingest. 2. To consume or destroy as if by ingestion; devour. Often used with *up*: "the final monopoly in which all previous and lesser monopolies were swallowed up" (Edward Bellamy). 3. To ingest (something unpleasant) reluctantly. Often used with *down*. 4. a. To bear humbly; tolerate: *swallow an insult*. b. To believe without question. 5. a. To refrain from expressing; suppress: *swallow one's feelings*. b. To take back; retract: *swallow one's words*. —*intr.* To perform the act of swallowing. —*n.* 1. The act of swallowing; a gulp. 2. The amount that is swallowed at any one time. 3. *Nautical*. The channel through which a rope runs in a block or a mooring chock. [Middle English *swalwen*, *swolwen*, Old English *swelgan*. See *swel* in Appendix.*] —**swal-low-er** *n.*

swal-low (swāl'ō) *n.* 1. Any of various birds of the family Hirundinidae, having long, pointed wings and a usually notched or forked tail. 2. Broadly, any of various similar birds, such as a swift. [Middle English *swallowe*, *swalu*, Old English *swad(e)lwe*, from Germanic *swalwi* (unattested).]

swal-low-tail (swāl'ō-tāl') *n.* 1. a. The deeply forked tail of a swallow. b. Something similar to it. 2. *Informal*. A swallow-tailed coat. 3. Any of various butterflies of the family Papilionidae, usually having a taillike extension at the end of each hind wing.

swal-low-tailed (swāl'ō-tāld') *adj.* 1. Having a deeply forked tail. Said of various birds. 2. Resembling the tail of a swallow: *a swallow-tailed kite*.

swallow-tailed coat. A man's black coat worn for formal daytime occasions and having a long rounded and split tail.

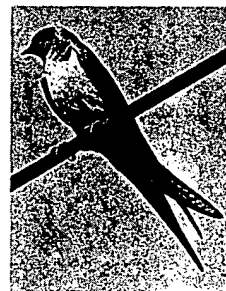
swal-low-wort (swāl'ō-wōrt', -wōrt') *n.* 1. A plant, the celandine (see). 2. Any of several vines of the genus *Cynanchum*, native to Europe; especially, *C. nigrum*, having clusters of small brownish-purple flowers. [Translation of Dutch *zwaluwenkruid* and German *Schwalbenwurz* (from the shape of its pod).]

swam. Past tense of swim.

swa-mi (swā'mē) *n., pl. -mis*. Also **swa-my** *pl. -mies*. 1. Lord; master. A Hindu title of respect. 2. A Hindu religious teacher. 3. Loosely, a mystic; yogi. [Hindi *swāmī*, master, from Sanskrit *svāmī*, owner, prince, "one's own master." See *sou* in Appendix.*]

Swam-mēr-dam (svāmēr-dām'), Jan. 1637-1680. Dutch naturalist; discovered the red corpuscle.

swamp (swāmp, swōmp) *n.* A lowland region saturated with



swallow²
Hirundo rustica
Barn swallow



swallowtail
Papilio machaon